

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 00170 01 OF 02 110257Z
ACTION AID-59

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AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KATHMANDU 0170

TOKYO FOR AID ADMINISTRATOR GILLIGAN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, NP
SUBJECT: AUDIENCE WITH KING BIRENDRA - U.S. DEVELOPMENTAL
ASSISTANCE

REF: KATHMANDU 0169 (NOTAL)

1. MEETING WITH KING JANUARY 5 STARTED WITH
BRIEFING BY AID DIRECTOR BUTTERFIELD ON US VIEWS
ON DEVELOPMENT IN NEPAL AND MAIN ELEMENTS OF AID
ASSISTANCE PROJECTS IN NEPAL. I TOLD KING I THOUGHT
THIS TOPIC TIMELY GIVEN (A) NEPAL'S OWN REVIEW OF
ITS 1977 DEVELOPMENTAL EFFORT JUST COMPLETED BY
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL UNDER HIS
CHAIRMANSHIP; (B) BUTTERFIELD'S IMMINENT DEPARTURE FOR AID
CONFERENCE IN TOKYO AT WHICH
IT WOULD BE VALUABLE FOR HIM TO HAVE BENEFIT
OF KING'S REACTION AND COMMENTS ON SUBSTANCE AND
DIRECTION OF OUR AID EFFORT; (C) FORTHCOMING
VISIT OF AID ADMINISTRATOR GILLIGAN WHO WAS
LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING KING. I NOTED IN THIS
CONNECTION THAT VISIT WAS AUSPICIOUS AS IT WOULD TAKE
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PAGE 02 KATHMA 00170 01 OF 02 110257Z

PLACE ON ANNIVERSARY OF JANUARY 23, 1951,
SIGNING OF FIRST AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN NEPAL AND
US. KING NODDED IN AGREEMENT.

2. BUTTERFIELD STARTED BY NOTING BROAD AGREEMENT ON
DEVELOPMENT GOALS EXPRESSED BY HMG AND USG. AFTER
SUMMARIZING OUR VARIOUS ASSISTANCE PROJECTS, HE WENT ON

TO MAKE AND ENLARGE ON FOLLOWING POINTS, AMONG OTHERS:

A) POPULATION GROWTH APPEARS TO AID TO BE THE MOST SERIOUS OF ALL THE DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS IN NEPAL. TO DEAL WITH IT THERE IS A NEED TO (1) EXPAND THE VOLUNTARY STERILIZATION SERVICES TO MEET THE RELATIVELY HIGH DEMAND, (2) INTEGRATE THE MULTIPLE HEALTH SERVICES IN WAYS THAT EMPHASIZE DELIVERY OF FAMILY PLANNING INFORMATION AND SERVICES, (3) STRENGTHEN THE POPULATION POLICIES COORDINATING BOARD (POPCOB), E.G., BY PLACING IT UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE PRIME MINISTER.

B) THE PROMISING INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL SCIENCES WOULD BE STRENGTHENED IF IT WERE ALLOWED TO ADMIT MORE STUDENTS WITH AGRICULTURAL EXPERIENCE AND FROM REMOTE AREAS.

C) IT SEEMS GENERALLY AGREED THAT DEFORESTATION CAN BE BETTER PREVENTED IF THE CONTROL OF FORESTS IS RETURNED FROM HMG TO THE VILLAGES.

D) IN THE RAPATI ZONE: (1) THE LAND TENURE PROBLEM MAKES AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE IN THE DANG AND DEOKHURI VALLEYS VERY DIFFICULT FOR AID TO AGREE TO; CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 KATHMA 00170 01 OF 02 110257Z

(2) CIVIL SERVANTS WILL NEED INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE HIGHEST POLITICAL LEVELS THAT DECENTRALIZED OPERATIONAL DECISION-MAKING AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PEOPLE TO DEVELOP THEMSELVES IS IN NEPAL'S INTEREST, (3) HMG WILL NEED TO ENSURE THAT RURAL ELITE DO NOT TWIST PROGRAMS TO THEIR PRIMARY INTEREST.

3. HIS MAJESTY TOOK OUR COMMENTS IN STRIDE AND RESPONDED POSITIVELY AND IN DETAIL TO THE PRESENTATION. HE COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS: (A) NEPAL APPRECIATES AID'S HELP. IT HAD BEEN ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT IN EARLY DAYS BUT IS CLEARLY VALUABLE NOW. (B) THE POPULATION PROBLEM IS INDEED VERY SERIOUS AND THE POINT MADE ON POPCOB HAD HIS FULL SUPPORT. THE PRIME MINISTER IS A BIG SUPPORTER OF WORK IN THIS AREA AND THE POPCOB ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE PROBLEM CAN BE EFFECTIVELY WORKED OUT WITH HIM. (C) THE RADIO EDUCATION PROJECT IS INNOVATIVE AND OF GREAT INTEREST.

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 00170 02 OF 02 110302Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KATHMANDU 0170

TOKYO FOR AID ADMINISTRATOR GILLIGAN

D) REGARDING WORK IN RESOURCE CONSERVATION, IT WILL BE IMPORTANT TO CONCENTRATE ON WATER CATCHMENT AREAS AND NOT SIMPLY TO DEAL WITH HILLS IN GENERAL. HMG HAS ENACTED LEGISLATION TO RETURN FOREST MANAGEMENT TO VILLAGE CONTROL AND THE MODALITIES ARE NOW BEING WORKED OUT. (E) THE BIGGEST DEMAND NOW COMING FROM RURAL AREAS IS FOR SMALL IRRIGATION SCHEMES. SMALL IRRIGATION PROJECTS WILL HAVE TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY ASSISTANCE IN MARKETING AND TRANSPORTATION AND SMALL INDUSTRIES NEED TO BE ESTABLISHED IN RURAL AREAS. (F) IN RURAL AREA DEVELOPMENT IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO GET THE PANCHAYAT POLITICAL LEADERSHIP INVOLVED IN ALL PROJECT COMMITTEES. AMONG OTHER ADVANTAGES IS THE INCREASE IN DOWN-TO-EARTH FEED-BACK WHEN THEY ARE INVOLVED. ALSO THEY REDUCE THE TENDENCY TO TRY TO CONTROL THE PROJECT FROM THE CENTER. IT WILL BE VERY IMPORTANT FOR ANY OF THE RURAL AREA DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS TO OBTAIN SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE PACHAYAT. (G) VOCATIONAL TRAINING NEEDS TO BE ACCELERATED. (H) AID SHOULD GIVE THOUGHT TO THE POSSIBILITY OF INCREASED ASSISTANCE IN SMALL
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PAGE 02 KATHMA 00170 02 OF 02 110302Z

IRRIGATION PROJECTS AND PROVISION OF TECHNICAL TRAINING IN TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY.

3. THE MEETING CONCLUDED ON THE NOTE THAT
USAID/N WOULD LOOK INTO THE LAST TWO AREAS. REGARDING
IRRIGATION, WE NOTED THE IMPORTANCE UNDER
OUR LEGISLATION OF INSURING WIDE-SPREAD BENEFIT
FROM IRRIGATION PROJECTS.
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